

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
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AMEMBASSY BEIRUT PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
USLO RIYADH
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USMISSION USUN
USICA WASHDC

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y - T E X T (P A R A 4 .)

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PEPR, SY, LE, PLO, IS
SUBJ: KHALID AL-HASAN BRANDS CHAMOUN AS INSTIGATOR OF TURMOIL IN
LEBANON

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. PALESTINE ISSUES PAGE, WHICH APPEARS WEEKLY IN AL-BAATH,
ON APRIL 12 FEATURED ARTICLE BY FATAH CENTRAL COUNCIL MEMBER
KHALED AL-HASAN IN WHICH HE BRANDS CAMILLE CHAMOUN AS AN ANTI-
NATIONAL VILLAIN IN THE AFTERMATH OF ISRAEL'S INVASION OF
SOUTH LEBANON. HE ASSERTS THAT OTHER CHRISTIAN LEADERS
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INCLUDING PIERRE GEMAYEL, SULEIMAN FRANJIEH, AND PATRIARCH
KREISH WILL HAVE A MAJOR ROLE IN DETERMINING EVENTS BY THEIR
ACCEPTANCE OR REJECTION OF CHAMOUN'S "ALLIANCE WITH ISRAEL
WITHIN LEBANON AND LEBANESE POLITICS." HE GOES ON TO
CONCEDE THAT PRESIDENT SARKIS ALSO HAS A MAJOR ROLE IN DEALING
WITH THE "ALLIANCE" AND ITS EXPECTED REACTION TO THE POLITICAL
REFORMS HE WILL TRY TO INTRODUCE IN LEBANON. AL-HASAN CHARGES

THAT ISRAEL WILL ATTEMPT TO USE ITS WITHDRAWAL FROM THE SOUTH AS A BARGAINING COUNTER TO FORCE DECISIONS FAVORABLE TO CHAMOUN AND LISTS A NUMBER OF FACTORS WHICH WILL DETERMINE IF THEY SUCCEED INCLUDING THE EXTENT TO WHICH SADAT AND THE SHAH CAN TOLERATE THE EMBARRASSMENT OF ISRAEL'S CONTINUING OCCUPATION, SYRIA'S POSITION, AND THE EXTENT THAT THE ARABS ARE WILLING TO PRESSURE THE US TO ACT.

2. IN ANOTHER COLUMN BY REGULAR "ISSUES PAGE" CONTRIBUTOR ABD AL-RAHMAN GHUNAIM ENTITLED: "FEATURES OF THE PLOT AND OUR METHODS TO CONFRONT IT," GHUNAIM WARNS THAT ISRAEL IS ATTEMPTING TO REIGNITE WAR IN LEBANON WITH THE AID OF UNDERMINING SYRIA'S POSITION. ADDITIONALLY, IT IS PLANNING ASSASSINATIONS AGAINST KEY PALESTINIAN LEADERS. HE STATES THAT IF THE READER ACCEPTS THESE PREMISES AS CORRECT THEN HE MUST CONCEDE THAT:

--THOSE PROMOTING SECTARIAN STRIFE ARE ISRAELI AGENTS; AND
--THOSE TRYING TO DISCREDIT SYRIA AND BLASSING ASSASSINATIONS ATTEMPTS ARE ALSO SCTING ON ISRAEL'S BEHALF.

3. GHUNAIM CALLS FOR "IDENTIFYING AND ELIMINATING" THESE AGENTS: CONFRONTING ISRAEL'S ATTEMPTS TO PROMOTE SECTARIAN STRIFE; AND STRENGTHENING PALESTINIAN UNITY WHILE DEEPENING SYRO-PALESTINIAN TIES.
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4. COMMENT: THE PALESTINIAN ISSUES PAGE ALLOWS OPINIONS TO BE AIRED WHICH SYRIA CAN EASILY DISCLAIM. HOWEVER, IT UNLIKELY THAT AL-BAATH WOULD HAVE PERMITTED AL-HASAN TO SINGLE OUT CHAMOUN AS ISRAEL'S PRINCIPAL AGENT IN LEBANON IF IT DID NOT TO SOME EXTENT SHARE THAT VIEW.
PELLETREAU

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